

Remarks:

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14, and 15 are now pending in this application. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-6, 8, and 15. Applicants have amended claims 9 and 14 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants submit that this supplemental response should be entered because it responds to the Examiner's request in the notice of non-responsive amendment to clarify the remarks regarding the Keoteklian references. Applicants also submit that the amendments to the claims place claim 9 and claims dependent thereon in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the supplemental response should be entered.

With respect to Keoteklian, Keoteklian does not disclose a method for removing solids from a fluid containment space within a separator vessel for separating liquids. Rather Keoteklian discloses mixing liquid reactants and waste liquor for the formation of solid material (floc/sludge). In particular, Keoteklian does not disclose separating fluids with the "separator vessel". For example, Keoteklian does not disclose separating water from oil. Rather, Keoteklian discloses the utility the "separator vessel" as forming floc/solid material/sludge in mixing zones. The floc/solid material/sludge is removed at the bottom of the clarifier from the sludge chamber 34. For example, at col. 8, lines 36-38 and 53-55, Keoteklian states, "The impeller 28 serves to distribute and mix the reactants and liquor and facilitates the concentration of sludge at the bottom of the tank." These are some of the reasons that Keoteklian does not disclose the present invention.

In view of the above, Keoteklian does not disclose or suggest patentable features of the present invention. Therefore, Keoteklian does not anticipate the present invention or make the present invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections based upon Keoteklian.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicant urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/3/08

  
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